

What is Claimed:

1. A client-side caching system, comprising:
a client for issuing a request based on user selection for a resource on a server; and
a server for sending a response including a cookie and script, wherein the cookie value represents the last version of the resource, and the script appends the cookie to the request for a resource and the client automatically requests the resource with the appended cookie value so that if the most recent version of the resource is in the client cache, the resource is retrieved from client cache rather than from the server, and if not, is retrieved from the server.
2. The client-side caching system of claim 1, wherein the resource is a web page, the resource is located at a URL, and the client is a web browser with a browser cache.
3. The client-side caching system of claim 1, wherein the response includes a non-displayed relatively small page and the cookie is in a response header and the script is in the entity body of the response.
4. The client-side caching system of claim 1, wherein the script that appends the cookie to the request is embedded in a displayed page.
5. A server for a client-side caching system, comprising:
a server for receiving a client request for a resource, updating a database, creating and inserting a cookie and a script in a response, wherein the cookie value represents the last version of the resource, the script appends the cookie value to the request for a resource such that the client automatically re-requests the resource with the appended cookie value so that if the most recent version of the resource is in the client cache, the resource is retrieved from client cache rather than from the server, and if not, the resource is retrieved from the server.

6. The server of claim 3, wherein the server includes a web server for listening to requests, the resource is a web page, and an application server for creating the cookie and inserting the cookie into response header and inserting the script into the entity body of the response.

7. A server-side caching system, comprising:

a server programmed for receiving client requests, updating a database, and generating a response and determining a cookie value for cache control, wherein the server sets the cookie value by determining the last modified time of each page in the same class as the page which is the subject of the request, and sets the cookie value to the maximum value of the last modified times.